

2012 Title I Conference Biographies



Manuel V. Scott

Manuel Scott's unique message is one that has inspired, educated, and empowered almost a million people, helping them make the most of their lives. At the age of 14, Manuel dropped out of school, and his English grammar was so poor that he was classified as an English as a Second Language student (ESL). By the age of 16, he had already lived in 26 different places. At an early age, he began using drugs and alcohol. However, due to an amazing transformation, Manuel has defied all the odds stacked against him. Scott says, "I was once dismissed as 'unreachable' and 'unteachable,' but something special happened, and I love sharing that message with others." The high school drop-out now holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Trinity International University. He is currently working on his PhD in Chicago, Illinois.

His is an against-the-odds story of immeasurable courage, strength and determination to overcome extreme adversity. His message leaves audiences not only awed and inspired, but also moved toward change. No one who hears Manuel's incredible story will ever be the same.



Marni Napierala and Shelly Kelly

Marni is currently a Title I Instructional Coach. She has been teaching in the Great Falls Public Schools district for 17 years. Twelve of these years were spent in the classroom as a fourth and fifth grade teacher. She was the Teacher on Special Assignment for one year and is in her fifth year as an instructional coach. Marni has been a district leader and trainer for math, new teacher training and science. She currently serves on our Math Curriculum Committee. Marni is married with two high school children.

Shelly is currently a district Curriculum Instruction Math Coach. She has been teaching in the Great Falls Public Schools district for 23 years. Shelly has taught grades two through five, been a teacher on special assignment, a principal and a literacy teacher. Shelly has been a district leader and trainer for math, new teacher training and communication arts. She currently serves on our Math Curriculum Committee. Shelly is married with two adult children.



Cynthia Green

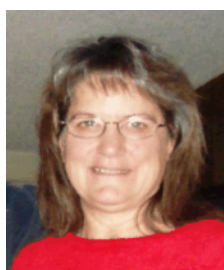
Cynthia attended the University of Montana and holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a Spanish minor and a master's degree in Educational Leadership. She has taught grades K-8 in public schools in Missoula, Great Falls, and Helena, as well as, grades K-3 in private international schools in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan.

Currently, Cynthia is a part of the Office of Public Instruction team as the English Language Arts Curriculum Specialist.



Lori Grant and Crista Anderson

Lori and Crista are Missoula County Public School District Instructional Coaches. The Instructional Coaches collaborate with colleagues to strengthen and enhance instructional practices. They support teachers through embedded classroom professional growth opportunities while meeting district-wide goals and initiatives. By focusing on cross-curricular connections, formative assessment, teaching strategies, classroom management, data use, building Professional Learning Communities, and staff selected topics, the Instructional Coaches establish an on- going network of support



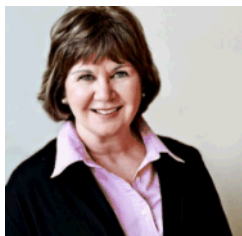
Sue Mohr

Sue Mohr is the Administrator of OPI's Measurement and Accountability Division. She is responsible for overseeing all of OPI's nonfinancial data and reporting. Sue is also part of the GEMS leadership team. Sue has been at the OPI since 2009. She has extensive experience working with data during her previous employment at the Montana Office of Higher Education, and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.



Jamey Ereth

Jamey Ereth is the GEMS Project Manager for the OPI. She has been with the OPI since May 2010. She has extensive experience working with data, managing large system builds, programming and project management.



Julia Dilly

Julia Dilly is the Assistant Superintendent of Operations with the Office of Public Instruction. Ms. Dilly oversees the fiscal administration of grants received at the OPI. She has over 25 years of experience working with the agency and school districts on the proper use of their federal funds and conducting training workshops in grants management.



Sunni Hitchcock

Sunni Hitchcock is the Federal Grants Accountant with Centralized Services for the Office of Public Instruction. Sunni has four years of experience in the management and distribution of federal grants received at the OPI, with the main focus being The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.



Sally Mathers

Sally Mathers served as the Literacy and Federal Programs Director for Great Falls Public Schools. She has taught elementary school in Pennsylvania, South Dakota, New York and Montana. Her emphasis has been creating readers. She enjoys reading, quilting and gardening.



Jack O'Connor

Jack O'Connor is the Assistant Title I Director and Federal Formula and Discretionary Grants Unit Manager for the Montana Office of Public Instruction. In this capacity he works with E-grants, SIG grants, and specializes in working with Targeted Assistance programs and with private/Nonpublic participation in Title I. Prior to this Jack was the Unit Manager for the School Support Unit at the OPI working with at-risk districts. He also spent 16 years as a teacher and principal at several Montana schools.



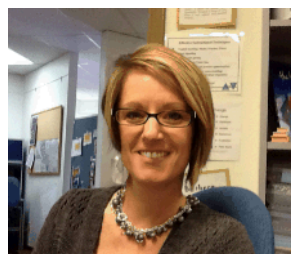
Dr. Heather Davis Schmidt, Missoula County Public Schools
Executive Regional Director

Heather Davis Schmidt is an Executive Regional Director for Missoula County Public Schools. She holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Montana, a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from The University of Montana, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Colorado College. In addition to serving as an adjunct for both The University of Montana and Kaplan University in their graduate schools of education, Heather is deeply involved in educational issues in the Missoula community, and is focused passionately on Missoula County Public School's three major initiatives: MCPS 21st Century Model of Education, Graduation Matters Missoula, and student achievement and graduation for all students, regardless of circumstances or ability.



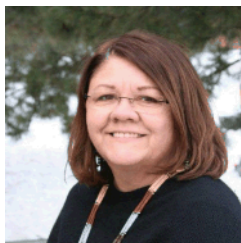
Teri Fisk

Teri Fisk has worked for 15 years as a Para Educator in the Hamilton School District, a Title I, RTI and MBI School. She has assisted in Tier 2 RTI Reading, Math Interventions, Progress Monitoring and Benchmark Assessments. Teri is a Montana PASS Program Trainer (Paras Achieving Standards Successfully) for the math course. She is also a Montana Para Consortium and Para Academies Trainer having participated on RTI, MBI and Differentiated Instruction Teams.



Terri Barclay

Terri Barclay is an instructional specialist for the Office of Public Instruction. Her background includes 11 years in elementary education, 6 years in K-12 Special Education, and multiple years integrating technology tools for diverse learners.



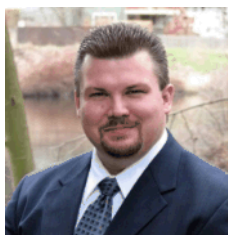
Marilyn J. Bruguier Zimmerman, MSW

Director, National Native Children's Trauma Center is an enrolled member of the Assiniboine-Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation. She is an Associate Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Services which allows her to work throughout the nation on culturally relevant, evidence-based interventions to treat childhood traumatic stress, reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for substance abuse, violence and suicide amongst AI/AN youth. Ms. Bruguier Zimmerman believes that integrating culturally based practices—an important protective factor in Indian Country—into the evidence-based framework is necessary for schools and programs that serve American Indian students. She has extensive experience working with tribes providing expertise in the area of childhood trauma, suicide prevention, domestic violence, juvenile justice and substance abuse.



Seena Demmons

Having taught English, Journalism and Communications classes in rural and urban middle and high schools across the state, Seena is currently a K-12 instructional coach with Missoula County Public Schools.



Greg Heaston

Greg Heaston is the lead contact for TransACT in our state partnerships with Montana and West Virginia. He is also responsible for acquiring new sales for TransACT Parent Notifications collections, Section 504 Compliance, and Civil Rights Essentials, our online staff training solution. In his nearly seven years with TransACT, he has worked with districts and schools in nearly every state in the country and brings a wealth of knowledge learned from their best training and implementation practices. He prefers to work with educators because they share his beliefs that learning is a life-long process and access to a quality education should be a right, not a privilege. Greg holds a bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati.

Radley's Distinguished Transformation

RH Radley Elementary School, home of the Tigers, is located in East Helena, Montana. Serving primarily a blue collar community, East Helena was originally founded by a now closed lead smelter plant. The East Helena School District encompasses the town of East Helena as well as numerous neighboring subdivisions and bedroom communities.

Radley is home to 493 students including seven classes of second graders, six classes of third graders and five classes of both fourth and fifth. The student demographics include 88% Caucasian students along with 10% Native American. Approximately 45% of the students come from economically disadvantaged homes. Radley has 33 certified educators as well as 19 classified employees.

**Joe McMahon**

Joe McMahon is currently the principal at Radley Elementary School (4th year) and was previously the principal at Eastgate Elementary School for 12 years. Prior to becoming an administrator, Joe was employed as a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Montana City School. A graduate of Carroll College and Montana State University, Joe and his wife Kelle are the proud parents of three daughters and two grandchildren –Isaac and Ava.

**Barb Anez**

Barb Anez has taught in East Helena for 26 years. She taught fifth grade for many years and also has experience teaching Kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and library skills. The last three years she has been the Indian Education Coordinator, a new position that was created to help the Native American students do better in school and help all students develop more of a Native American cultural awareness.



Karol Gustin

Karol Gustin works as instructional coach at Radley Elementary School in East Helena. She has been a coach for the past nine years working with teachers and students in second through fifth grade. She has taught second, third, and fourth grade, and has enjoyed working in East Helena for the past 26 years.



Kim Metzger

Kim Metzger is in her second year of teaching at Radley Elementary School. She currently teaches grades three through five Title I Math and Reading. She previously taught English for eight years in Harlem, Montana, and fifth grade in Great Falls, for four years. She earned her Elementary Education degree from MSU-Northern and her master's degree from Lesley University. Kim is married and has two grown children, one grandson and another grandbaby due in March. She lives in East Helena with her husband, Oren.



Tracey Rogstad

Tracey Rogstad began working for the East Helena Schools in 1997 as a Title I aid. After two years as an aid, she was hired as a fifth grade classroom teacher. In the next 13 years she taught second through fifth grades, including seven years in a multi-age classroom. She is currently a fourth grade teacher.



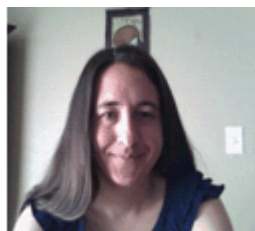
Shana Dachs

Shana Dachs has been part of the Radley Elementary community for nine years and currently teaches second grade. Prior to joining the second grade team, Shana taught special education for six years at Radley. She earned degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education from Minot State University in North Dakota. She lives in Helena with her husband and two children.



Don Wetzel Jr.

Don Wetzel Jr. is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, husband and father of three. He has a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and a master's degree in public relations from Montana State University – Billings. He is currently working with Montana reservation schools on implementing youth empowerment programs and community and tribal outreach to schools as the Students, Families, & Communities Coordinator under the Office of Public Instruction.

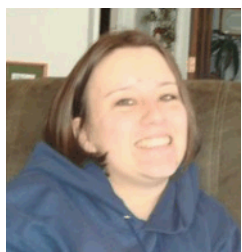


Robyn Nuttall is currently a K-12 Instructional Coach for the Missoula County Public School District as well as an online teacher for the Montana Digital Academy. She has 12 years of experience teaching mathematics at Title I schools in both Montana and Idaho.



Mike Jetty

Mike Jetty is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation. Mike is currently working at the Montana Office of Public Instruction as an Indian Education Specialist. He has been working with Indian Education issues for the past 20 years and has teaching experience at both the K-12 and university level. He has a B.S. in History Education, a Master's in School Administration and an Education Specialist Degree. In the last seven years, he has provided over 180 Indian Education workshops for more than 3,000 educators.



Danielle McCarthy

Danielle graduated from Carroll College with a bachelor's degree in Elementary/Special Education. She taught for 6 1/2 years in various special education classrooms, K-8. She obtained her master's degree in education (MED) from Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in Nampa, Idaho in 2010 with certification in Administration and Director of Special Education. She will graduate this May with an Education Specialist Degree (ESD) with certification as a superintendent. Danielle is working on her doctorate in Education through NNU. She has been with the Office of Public Instruction since December of 2009 as an Early Childhood/Compliance Specialist.